

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed May 12, 2006. Claims 1-15 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1, 13, and 15 are independent claims from which all other claims depend. Claims 1, 13, and 15 have been amended.

Claims 1-12 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wessels et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,898,498).

Amended claim 1 recites an automotive collision mitigation system that includes at least one sensor for sensing a first and a second detection zone. The system uses these detection zones for predicting a primary severity of a primary impact sensed in the first detection zone, and a secondary severity of a secondary impact sensed in the second detection zone. The system then uses at least one countermeasure attribute to reduce the combined severity of the primary impact and the secondary impact.

Wessels discloses an improved method of using multiple crash sensing and multiple sensor occupant position sensing for classifying a crash event and determining which restraints should be deployed. The classification uses multiple sensors and does not include any predictive capability.

Applicants submit that the system of Wessels does not provide a system for reducing the combined severity of primary and secondary impacts.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant submits that claims 1-15 are now allowable. Expeditious allowance of claims 1-15 is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions on the above, or wants to discuss the subject matter further, he is welcome to call the Applicants' attorney at (313) 323-2024.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "F.A. MacKenzie", written over a horizontal line.

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